

Banhardih Coal Block of M/s. Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited
(Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) EDS Compliance dated 17.03.2026

Observation (i): - The user agency has proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land, out of which 307.20 ha is earmarked for overburden dumping. Since overburden dumping is a non-site-specific activity, the State Government is required to re-cast and rationalize the area proposed for overburden dumping. The user agency in consultation with the State Govt. shall explore the non-forest land nearby for such activity.

Compliance: User agency have submitted that the proposed diversion of 515.32 ha is exclusively for mining purpose is not acceptable as in component wise breakup of land user agency have shown the excavation area as 94.25 ha in forest land rest 421.07 ha forest land for other purposes such as Top Soil dump, External dump/Surface dump (Temporary), Undisturbed / Mining Rights for U.G.

Total mining lease area is 1467.42 ha. Out of which, 515.32 ha is forest land and 952.10 ha is non-forest land. The prospecting operation to work out the detailed coal reserve within the mining lease has not been taken up. As per item 12 of the minerals (evidence of mineral contents) rules, 2015 'Mineral Reserved' is the economically mineable part of a major and indicated mineral resource. Without taking up G1 level of prospecting, it is very difficult to estimate the actual coal reserve in the mining lease. Besides that, without G1 level prospecting the complete Geological Survey map indicating the mineable and non-mineable area can not be ascertained. It is reported by User Agency that maximum coal deposit is concentrated in the Central and Eastern part of the lease. Hence, without taking up complete prospecting work, it is difficult to workout the excavation area to exploit complete minerals.

Further, as per the land use proposed in the mining plan, the mining will take up in two phases. Large chunk of non-forest land over 952.10 ha is available within the mining lease. Out of which, it is prescribed that 164.91 ha of non-forest land shall remain undisturbed. It would be worthy to utilize the non-forest land for OB dump instead of utilizing forest land for the purpose. As per provision Para 1.10 of the consolidated guidelines circulated by MoEF&CC, GoI dated 29.12.2023, OB dump cannot be taken as site specific activity. The compliance submitted by the User Agency authenticating the outcome of huge OB dump in stripping ratio without detailed prospecting of the minerals may mislead towards the wrong use of forest land within the ML.

In this context, it would have been better if use agency goes for detail prospecting before starting mining operation as per approved mining plan. If mining operation

shall be allowed in the detail survey area then, then it would be appropriate to utilize the forest land as OB dump.

In special case government may consider few forest patches alongwith non forest land for OB dump. A map showing the forest land as well as non forest land for OB dump area is being attached for kind perusal and consideration.

Condition (ii):- *Initially, mining is proposed to commence over an area of 727.24 ha, comprising 94.25 ha of forest land and 632.99 ha of non-forest land, for a mining period of 30 years, as per the approved mining plan. In this context, clarification is required as to why the instant proposal cannot be re-cast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha only.*

Compliance: In para 3.1.2 of chapter 3 of mining plan it is mentioned that this Mining Plan is envisaged coal mining through opencast methodology up to depth of 300 meter form the surface level. Liquidation plan for the UG sector will be assessed at later phase when the mine parameters and other Geomining characteristics will be assessed through due course of mining and detailed exploration in the unexplored part. Further the facts in detail mentioned in para no. 3.1.10, 3.1.11 and 3.1.12 of chapter 3 of mining plan are given below.

3.1.10	Whether the proposed external OB dump site is coal/lignite bearing: if so, whether coal/lignite below waste disposal area is extractable.	An area of around 418.12 Ha of land has been identified within the block area for temporary external dumping in the planned period. The area is yet to be covered under detailed exploration however, known to be coal bearing from the existing Geological information. this dump will be completely re-handed at the end of the planned period and made available for future mining if found potential subsequent of the detailed exploration. The area will be explored in detail before commencement of mining operation.
3.1.11	Whether negative proving for coal/ lignite in the proposed site for OB dump/infrastructure has been done.	The area is yet to be covered under detailed exploration.
3.1.12	Result of any investigation carried out for scientific mining, conservation of minerals and protection of environment : future proposals.	The Geological Report covering an area of 1049 Ha is in place. Excavation plan is restricted within such area.

It is stated by the User Agency that selective or fragmented extraction of coal bearing forest patches would disrupt the approved pit geometry and slope stability which is

not correct. Because, previously it is stated that the mining operation shall be taken up in two phases. If the pit geometry will be disturbed, how the mining work would be taken in two phases. The geological plan after due prospecting can ascertain the existence of underground seams which would intern allow to determine the stripping ratio and available of OB materials etc. It would not be correct to allow the non-surveyed area as mineral deposit area. Hence, mining should be confined to 94.25 ha in the 1st phase as applied earlier.

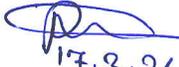
Condition (iii):- *The State Govt. shall submit details of 94.82 ha of forest land for Undisturbed/Mining Rights for under-ground (UG) mining. A component wise map, KML file, subsidence prediction report in this regard may also be submitted.*

Compliance: In Item no.8 of land use plan proposed for mining, underground mining is proposed over forest and non-forest area. But, the User Agency in his compliance stated that no underground mining is envisaged as per the approved mining plan which is a contradictory compliance. Further, it is complied that the land has been kept undisturbed solely to maintain the shape of pit geometry, prevent slope failure and ensure overall mining safety. As per Para-7.4 (iv) (f) of the consolidated guidelines of MoEF&CC, GoI dated 29.12.2023, mining operation and other activities shall be carried out as per the land use allowed in the approval under the adhiniyam. Hence, within the mining lease area, no land can be kept undisturbed without assignment of the land use.

Condition (iv):- *The State Govt. has revised the CA sites after the site inspection has been carried out by the Regional office Ranchi of the Ministry. Therefore, the RO, Ranchi shall carry out the site inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and will submit its recommendation.*

Compliance: Regional Office have carried out site inspection on 24-02-2026. During the site inspection it is found that in Mauza-Tasatbar afforestation work has already been done over an area of 10 hectare through another scheme. Therefore, revised KML file, Cadastral Survey map, DGPS Map, Toposheet map for 48.45 hectare of Mauza Tasatbar is being attached with revised cost estimate for CA.

Divisional Forest Office
Latehar Forest Division.


17.3.26

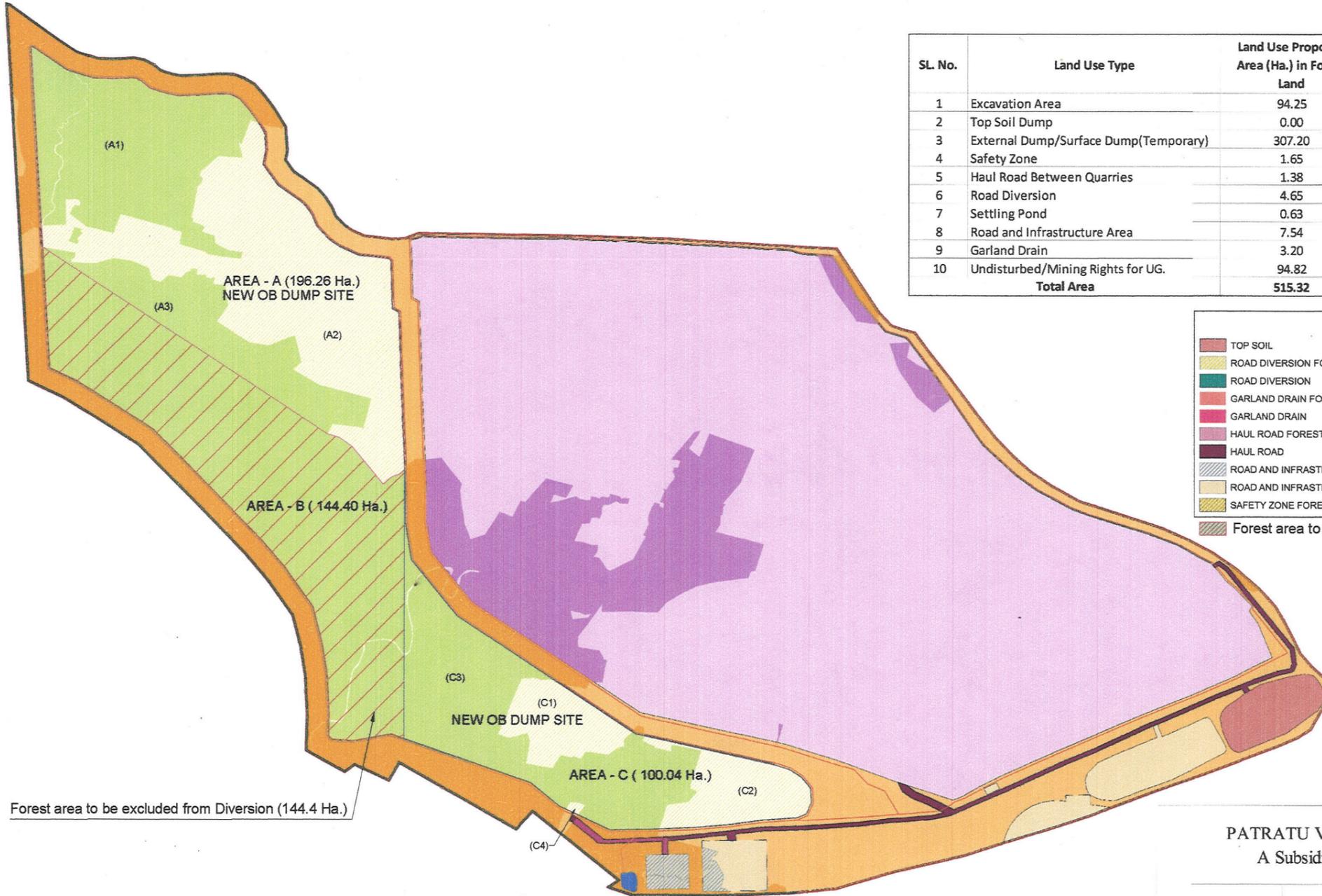
KML MAP SHOWING THE COMPONENT WISE/PURPOSE WISE UTILISATION OF THE PROPOSED FOREST LAND



SL. No.	Land Use Type	Land Use Proposed Area (Ha.) in Forest Land	Land Use Proposed Area (Ha.) in Non Forest Land	Total Land Use Proposed Area (Ha.)
1	Excavation Area	94.25	632.99	727.24
2	Top Soil Dump	0.00	12.24	12.24
3	External Dump/Surface Dump(Temporary)	307.20	133.50	440.70
4	Safety Zone	1.65	6.20	7.85
5	Haul Road Between Quarries	1.38	8.83	10.21
6	Road Diversion	4.65	0.93	5.58
7	Settling Pond	0.63	0.01	0.64
8	Road and Infrastructure Area	7.54	28.16	35.70
9	Garland Drain	3.20	4.38	7.58
10	Undisturbed/Mining Rights for UG.	94.82	124.86	219.68
Total Area		515.32	952.10	1467.42

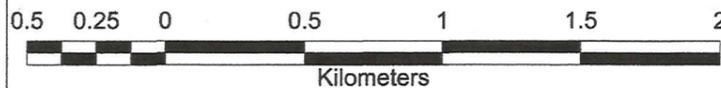
Legend	
	TOP SOIL
	ROAD DIVERSION FOREST
	ROAD DIVERSION
	GARLAND DRAIN FOREST
	GARLAND DRAIN
	HAUL ROAD FOREST
	HAUL ROAD
	ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE AREA FOREST
	ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE AREA
	SAFETY ZONE FOREST
	SAFETY ZONE
	SETTLING POND FOREST
	SETTLING POND
	EXTERNAL DUMP/SURFACE DUMP FOREST
	EXTERNAL DUMP/SURFACE DUMP (Temporary)
	EXCAVATION AREA FOREST
	EXCAVATION AREA
	UNDISTURBED AREA FOREST
	UNDISTURBED AREA
	MINING LEASE BOUNDARY

Land Schedule			
Patch	Part Patch	Forest Ha.	Non Forest Ha.
A	A1	65.62	
	A3	33.48	
	A2		97.16
Sub Total			196.26
B		144.4	
Sub Total			144.4
C	C1		16.75
	C2		19.25
	C4		0.34
	C3	63.7	
Sub Total			100.04
Total			440.7



Forest area to be excluded from Diversion (144.4 Ha.)

SCALE- 1:8,000



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SUBJECT : KML MAP SHOWING THE COMPONENT-WISE/PURPOSE-WISE UTILIZATION OF THE PROPOSED FOREST LAND

UNITED EXPLORATION INDIA PVT. LTD.

84°37'30"E

84°39'0"E

84°40'30"E

23°45'0"N

23°45'0"N

23°43'30"N

23°43'30"N